

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AT NORTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY – EAST UNIT AT STOCKTON EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2009

Kansas Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz today announced that the operations at the Norton Correctional Facility – East Unit will be suspended effective April 1, 2009. Suspending operations at Stockton had previously been scheduled to occur June 30, 2009, but has been advanced in the ongoing effort to reduce the Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

“Suspending operations at Stockton is expected to save the Department approximately \$339,000 in the current fiscal year,” Werholtz said. “Governor Sebelius included plans to suspend operations in June as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 reductions, but the need to further reduce the budget for this year has placed us in a position where advancing that date to April 1 is necessary.”

The Stockton Unit is a minimum security facility with a capacity for 128 inmates. Currently, the facility has a population of 64. Those inmates will be transferred to open capacity at other facilities throughout the correctional system.

The unit employs 33 state staff. The Department will be working with all staff at Stockton to assist with future employment alternatives.

“This is another difficult decision we must take in an effort to reduce expenditures,” Werholtz said. “We recognize that some of our outstanding staff will be directly impacted by this decision, as well as the Stockton community. We will be working with all affected parties to minimize the impact of this action.”

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